

The Star-Ledger Scholarship for The Performing Arts

Sponsored by

The Star-Ledger

New Jersey
Performing Arts Center
Arts Education
Department
in cooperation with
The Star-Ledger
presents



Scholarship Awards
Reception and
Performance
featuring recipients of
The Star-Ledger Scholarship
for the Performing Arts



Stephanie Harris, *theater*
Nikiya Mathis, *theater*
Tyshawn Sorey, *music*



With music accompaniment by
Students from the NJPAC/
Jazz for Teens Program

NJPAC Banquet Hall
Monday, June 14, 1999 at 4pm

The Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts

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The Star-Ledger Scholarship for The Performing Arts, a new program administered by The New Jersey Performing Arts Center, will identify, train and cultivate gifted Newark high school seniors who are college-bound and who have demonstrated the potential to become leading arts professionals. There are three merit-based scholarships awarded. These scholarships are among New Jersey's most prestigious scholastic awards. We seek to identify the highest achieving Newark high school seniors who wish to fulfill their potential by attending college, but may not be able to because of financial limitations. In 1999, Tyshawn Sorey received a \$10,000 scholarship per year for four years and Stephanie Harris and Nikiya Mathis each received a \$5,000 scholarship per year for four years. The scholarships will support a 4-year education leading to the completion of an arts degree from an accredited undergraduate institution in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. The scholarships will also provide an opportunity to gain practical experience at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

The Star-Ledger, New Jersey's largest newspaper, is the oldest continuously published newspaper in the state.

Martin Bartner, *Publisher*

Jim Willse, *Editor*

Leonard Fisher, *Associate Editor*

The
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New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC)

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center is located near Gateway Center, Newark's Penn Station, and the Ironbound District. With two theaters, the 2,750-seat Prudential Hall and the intimate 500-seat Victoria Theater, NJPAC is the result of a dream – a dream of excellence and universality in the performing arts – which has become a reality through the support of the State, the City of Newark, the federal government, a public-spirited private sector, and a determined, culture-loving population. A new kind of performing arts center, one equipped to present world-class events representing every conceivable art form, both traditional and popular, NJPAC stands as a symbol of community, excellence in artistic expression, and international cultural exchange.

NJPAC Arts Education

Arts education has been a central part of NJPAC's mission since its inception. Even before the center opened its doors in October of 1997, the Arts Education Department had been reaching thousands of young people through its in-school and community-based programs and performances. Today, NJPAC boasts one of the largest and most highly regarded programs of its kind in the nation.

Before the end of its second season, over 200,000 teachers, students, and parents attended performances in the SchoolTime and FamilyTime series. In addition, school residency programs involve over 4,000 students each year in comprehensive dance, theater, and music training. Programs also reach young people beyond the school walls through partnership residencies with United Way agencies and NJPAC's Summer Youth Performance Workshop. Working directly with teachers to increase their understanding of arts education is key to the effectiveness of any arts program. For this reason, opportunities for professional development are also an important part of NJPAC's offerings.

The NJPAC facilities belong to all New Jerseyans. In this spirit, the Arts Education Department has developed partnerships with educational institutions and arts organizations statewide. These programs include the annual hosting of the NJMEA All-State Concerts; *Jazz For Teens*, co-produced with WBGO-Jazz 88; the Jeffrey Carollo Music Scholarship at the Newark Community School of the Arts; and the New Jersey Youth Orchestra Festival, presented in association with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

PROGRAM

Opening Remarks

Philip S. Thomas

Vice President, Arts Education, NJPAC

Lawrence P. Goldman

President and CEO, NJPAC

Dr. Beverly L. Hall

Superintendent, Newark Public Schools

Jim Willse

Editor, The Star-Ledger

Stephanie Harris, *monologue*

Nikiya Mathis, *monologue*

Tyshawn Sorey, *trombone*

Accompaniment by

the NJPAC/Jazz for Teens Ensemble

Scott Bradlee, *piano*

Jason Jaksetic, *bass*

Brandon Pettit, *tenor sax*

Steven Ujfalussey, *tenor sax*

Rory Quince, *drums*

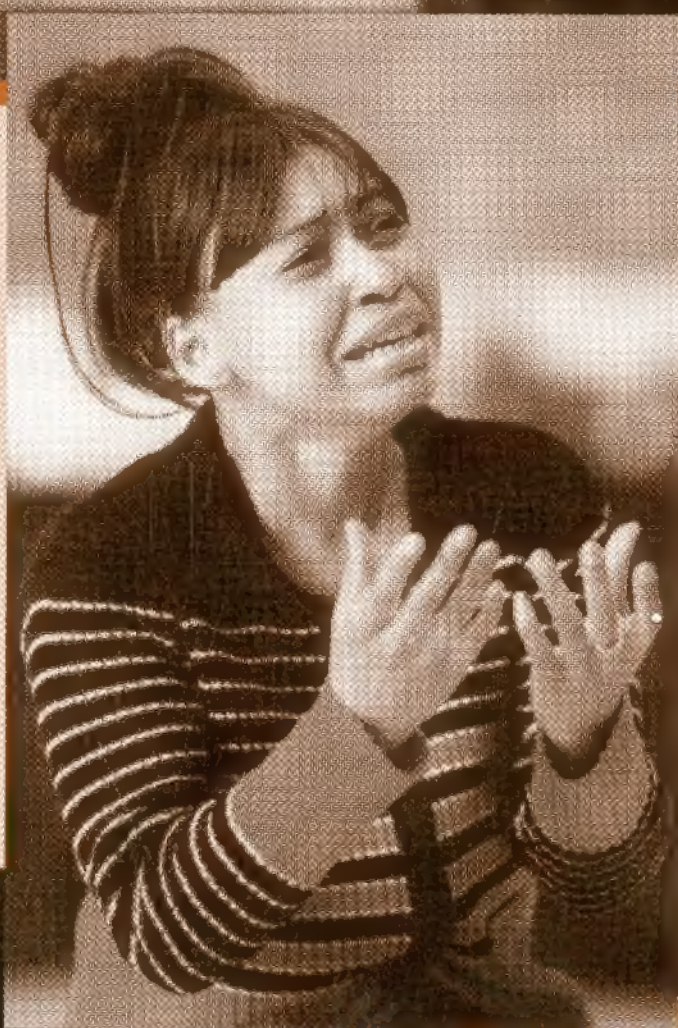


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Stephanie Harris



Nikiya Mathis



Tyshawn Sorey



Photos of recipients: Matt Rainey

Each student who applied for The Star-Ledger Scholarship for The Performing Arts was required to submit an essay describing how the scholarship would benefit their aspirations of having a successful career in the performing arts. Here are the 1999 Scholar Essays...

By Tyshawn Sorey

This scholarship would benefit my aspirations of having a career in the performing arts in different areas in which I will attempt to explain.

My career to date has been a constant joy for me personally because I can devote a significant amount of time after school hours to enhancing my instrumental playing. I am eager to take the next step in my life's journey and hopefully with your support and financial assistance, college will become a new beginning, a new challenge that will help shape my future for many years to come. Music is without a doubt my life's passion and I am pleading to you for guidance and opportunity so that I can continue musically to make a positive contribution to myself as well as society itself.

Coming from a meager family, I look forward to being the first one to complete college and to stand as a shining role model. Thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime.



By Stephanie Harris

I believe I will benefit from this scholarship in many different ways. First, because I will need the financial stability when I go away to college. Second, there aren't many scholarships for students who want to go into the Arts, so this scholarship is a prime resource for me as an aspiring actress.

Now as a senior, coming to the end of my high school career, the pressure of worrying about how to pay my college fees has all become too much. However, obtaining this scholarship will be my backbone; meaning, receiving this will give me a tremendous amount of support.



In conclusion, I would like to say that receiving this wonderful scholarship would not only be a very honoring experience, but it will ease my mind on worrying about payments for college, and instead help me to remain focused on what I really want to achieve. As Shakespeare once said, "To be or not to be that is the question" and I am answering that question with YES I want to be an ACTRESS.

By Nikiya Mathis



Never before had I perceived the world with such illumination as I have after reading Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*. Like the character Invisible Man, only after much time and experience, will I be enlightened to the various agendas that people have concerning me. This novel has caused me to examine more closely, situations and individuals that I encounter. In the process, self-examination and heightening of individuality is developing within me. Ellison wrote *Invisible Man* during a period defined by elevated social turmoil. However different the settings may be, the issues remain the same; we, as individuals, are striving through still-born attempts to be heard, to be seen, or simply to "be"; however, the world is looking at us through "blind" eyes.

The Invisible Man chose to isolate himself, as a result of the lack of individuality that was fostered by society. Ellison writes, "Now I know men are different and that all life is divided and that only in division is there true health. Hence, again I have stayed in my hole, because up above, there is an increasing passion to make men conform to a pattern." This statement is relevant to my experience in Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International of Union County. I decided that I wanted to bring "newness" to the competition. In previous years the contestants who performed monologues "conformed" to the same pattern of stereotypical "black" pieces. I felt very strongly about performing a scene from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. However, I was strongly discouraged because, in some people's opinion, the play was neither universal, nor positive. After this discouragement, a lady came to encourage me to fulfill my innate desire. She mentioned Paul Robeson and the many challenges that faced him in his acting career and the method he used to overcome.

This information gave me the inspiration to overcome "all of the voices screaming, 'you people can't do Shakespeare,'" in my composition entitled *Tribute to Paul Robeson*. I incorporated various excerpts from Shakespearean plays into the piece and acted as if Robeson and I were performing them on Broadway. I was informed that the competition had never encountered an actress with such individuality until I entered and won the Union County, New Jersey and Hal Jackson's Talented Teen International 1998 crown, becoming the first person ever to have won the International title purely through acting. This was the breaking point that caused me to pursue an acting career. This scholarship will enable me to, at least, become grounded in my acting career and begin to cross boundaries, based on racial, gender, or personal bias that people have concerning me.

Thus, this attitude will foster the steadfast conviction within me to never settle for "good enough." As an actress I must be strong-willed enough to fight the "increasing passion to make men conform to a pattern", to paraphrase Ralph Ellison: I am ingenue; I will break down the walls.

The Star-Ledger Scholarship Advisory Committee

Philip S. Thomas, *NJPAC*
Sandra D. Ritchwood, *NJPAC*
Dr. Geoffrey Newman, *Montclair State University*
Marilyn E. Somville, *Rutgers University*
Dr. Beverly L. Hall, *Newark Public Schools*
Elizabeth DeTufo, *Newark Boys Chorus School*
Cissy Houston, *Performing Artist*

The Star-Ledger Scholarship Advisory Sub-Committee

Kathy M. Augustine, *Newark Public Schools*
Brother Ralph Darmento, *Archdiocese of Newark*
William W. May, *Newark Public Schools*
Ben O'Neill, *Newark Public Schools*
Dr. Ronald Sharps, *Montclair State University*
JocAnn Trotman, *Newark Public Schools*

The Star-Ledger Scholarship Audition Committee

Instrumental Music

Steve Colson
Donald Parker
David Singer

Vocal Music

Dena DeRose
Gerald Muller
Louise Wohlfaska

Dance

Sandy Dreis
Alfred Gallman
Paul McRae

Theater

Count Stovall
Marie Thomas
Arthur Wilson

Acknowledgements

The NJPAC Arts Education programs are made possible by the generous support of The Victoria Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, Allen and Joan Bildner and The Bildner Family Foundation, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Bell Atlantic, the NJPAC Arts Education Fund, First Union National Bank, and the Schering-Plough Foundation.

Additional support has been provided by Burgdorff Realtors/ ERA, the Children's Benefit Fund/Toys "R" Us, City of Newark, Robert and Patricia Curvin, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Pepsi-Cola Company, PepsiCo Foundation, Target Stores, The Star-Ledger, The Turrell Fund, and The United Way of Essex and West Hudson.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Raymond G. Chambers & Dr. P. Roy Vagelos, *Co-Chairmen*
Lawrence P. Goldman, *President & Chief Executive Officer*
Philip S. Thomas, *Vice President, Arts Education*

Arts Education Staff

Ann Frances Cruz, *Program Administrator*
Adrian Cupid, *Associate Director of Performances*
Sanaz Hojreh, *Associate Director of Performances*
Donna Bost White, *Associate Director of Residencies*
Linda Sealer-Socolof, *Program Coordinator for Residencies*
Michael Allen, *Program Coordinator for Residencies*
Sandra D. Ritchwood, *Program Coordinator for Arts Training*
Karen A. Conover, *Program Coordinator for Music Training*
Irene Toone, *Program Coordinator for Partnerships*



The Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts



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The Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts

The Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts is designed to expand higher education opportunities for the young people of Newark. This new program, administered by the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, will enable NJPAC to identify, train and cultivate gifted Newark high school seniors who are college-bound and who have demonstrated the potential to become leading arts professionals. There will be three merit-based scholarships awarded. These scholarships are among New Jersey's most prestigious scholastic awards. We will seek to identify the highest achieving Newark high school seniors who wish to

fulfill their potential by attending college, but may not be able to because of financial limitations. One student will receive \$10,000 per year for four years and two students will each receive \$5,000 per year for four years. The Scholarships will support a 4-year education leading to the completion of an arts degree from an accredited undergraduate institution in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area. The scholarships will provide an opportunity to gain practical experience at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.

Features

- Scholarships are available in the areas of vocal music, instrumental music, theater and dance.
- Open to high school seniors who reside in Newark and attend school in Newark only.
- Paid internships providing hands-on experience at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.
- Career counseling and guidance services will be provided.
- Future opportunities to perform at NJPAC.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Completed application and requirements must be received no later than **April 1, 1999**. No application will be considered eligible if received after this date.
- Required auditions are scheduled for **April 19, 1999** at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center.
- Awards reception to be held on **June 14, 1999**.



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Requirements

- Student must be a high school senior who attends school and has a permanent residence in Newark, New Jersey (proof of residency and school registration will be required).
- Student must have an overall academic G.P.A. of 2.5 to apply for this scholarship. An official high school transcript must be submitted.
- Student must submit three letters of recommendation. One from his/her arts training instructor, one from a school teacher and one from the principal or a civic leader.
- Student must submit a copy of SAT scores, which will be considered in the selection process.
- Student must complete the attached scholarship application form.
- Student must submit a one-page essay expressing how this scholarship would benefit his/her aspirations of having a successful career in the performing arts.
- Scholarship will be based on artistic talent, financial need and academic potential.
- Student must perform in one of the following areas: vocal music, instrumental music, dance or theater. (Students will receive guidelines on how to prepare for and what to bring to the audition prior to the audition date.)
- The three scholarship recipients (1 scholar-intern, 2 scholars) must enroll in a 4-year undergraduate college in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area to begin classes no later than the Fall of 1999 as a full-time student majoring in the performing arts. If the scholarship recipient changes his/her major to a different artform (example: from theater to dance), scholarship benefits will continue. If the scholarship recipient changes his/her major to a non-performing arts subject, the scholarship advisory committee will have the discretion to renew the scholarship as long as the recipient maintains substantial course work in the performing arts.
- The scholar-intern must work as an intern at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center for the first two years.
- Student must maintain an overall G.P.A. of 2.5 and meet the requirements of their major, but no less than a 2.5 G.P.A. for the duration of the scholarship benefits.

Components

- Auditions will be held in one afternoon. If necessary, additional audition dates will be scheduled.
- Scholarship applicants will be notified of their status (rejection or acceptance) no later than June 1, 1999.
- Student must begin college no later than the Fall of 1999.

Audition Requirements

All auditions will be held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center on **April 19, 1999**. After your application is submitted to us (**deadline April 1, 1999**) you will be sent a confirmation of your scheduled audition time.

As a supplement to this application, you will receive an additional page that includes audition requirements for each discipline (vocal music, instrumental music, dance and theater). These requirements will provide details of how to prepare for the auditions.

The Star-Ledger Scholarship for the Performing Arts

Please mail application requirements to:

Ms. Sandra D. Ritchwood — Program Coordinator, Arts Education
New Jersey Performing Arts Center Center
One Center Street • Newark, New Jersey 07102
Phone: 973-353-8033 • Fax: 973-642-0654

All applications, letters of recommendation, copy of SAT scores and official high school transcript must be received no later than **April 1, 1999**.

STUDENT LAST NAME		FIRST NAME		MI	
ADDRESS		CITY		STATE ZIP	
HOME PHONE		GENDER	AGE	DATE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY #
MOTHER'S FULL NAME				WORK PHONE	
FATHER'S FULL NAME				WORK PHONE	
GUARDIAN'S FULL NAME				WORK PHONE	
HIGH SCHOOL CURRENTLY ATTENDING				GRADE	
ADDRESS		CITY		STATE	ZIP PHONE
SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN				DATE	

Art Discipline _____ Number of Years Studied _____
(Vocal music, instrumental music, dance, theater)

Have you been accepted at a college in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, what is the name of the college? _____

Did you remember to include the following documents? (Check off each box)

- ☐ Completed application
- ☐ 3 letters of recommendation (Arts training instructor, teacher, principal or civic leader).
- ☐ 1 copy of SAT scores
- ☐ 1 official high school transcript (have transcript sent to:
Ms. Sandra D. Ritchwood, NJPAC, One Center St., Newark, NJ 07102)
- ☐ 1 page essay. (How would this scholarship benefit your aspirations of having a successful career in the performing arts?)

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Lawrence P. Goldman President & Chief Executive Officer

Philip S. Thomas Vice President for Arts Education

Arts Education Department

Andrew Berger Director of Performances

Sanaz Hojreh Associate Director of Performances

Adrian Cupid Associate Director of Performances

Donna Bost White Associate Director of Residencies

Sandra D. Ritchwood Program Coordinator- Arts Training

Irene Toone Program Coordinator- Partnerships

Linda Sealer-Socolof Program Coordinator- Residencies

Michael Allen Program Coordinator- Residencies

Naima Nguvu Administrative Assistant to the Vice President

